



LAND MOBILE RADIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(A Federal, State and Municipal Partnership)



MEMORANDUM FOR Federal Wireless Users Forum

15 Aug 02

ATTENTION: Mr. Jeno Mao

National Telecommunications & Information Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 4624

1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20230

FROM: Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) Executive Council
State of Alaska
Department of Administration
5900 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1266

SUBJECT: Statement of Facts

1. We understand from a Federal Times article dated April 22, 2002, by Diane Frank, that a presentation (attached) on the subject "National Wireless Communications Infrastructure Program" was provided to your group in May 2002, by Mr. Charles Cape, Director, Special Projects and Programs, Office of the Chief Information Officer, US Department of Commerce. This correspondence is provided to clarify facts associated with representations made concerning NWCIP and the Pacific Mobile Emergency Radio System (PACMERS) as it pertains to cooperative land mobile radio efforts for federal, state and local government public safety in Alaska.

Mr. Cape asserts the following concerning Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) efforts:

- Interoperability and narrowband solution (Uses 406.1-420Mhz Band).
- ✓ FACT: ALMR infrastructure is designed to operate in the VHF band, utilizing federal (NTIA) spectrum assets in the 138-144Mhz band and non-federal (FCC) spectrum in the VHF public safety bands.
- Being deployed throughout Alaska.

- ✓ FACT: PACMERS is not the program under which ALMR is being managed and implemented; it is a contract vehicle that is being used by the Army to implement 9 radio sites and a controller in the ALMR north zone phase 1 build out. There are three zones containing a total of 87 radio sites and two controllers that make up the current planned ALMR statewide system infrastructure. The PACMERS contract vehicle, a GSA ANSWER contract, is one of many contract vehicles that can be used to meet the ALMR goals. PACMERS contract was not selected to complete the next 6 sites and southern controller because the contract was not cost competitive with other available contract vehicles. The federal state and local agencies are not compelled to use this contract vehicle or participate in the PACMERS program.
- Includes military and other federal government (and) interoperability to state and local law enforcement.
- ✓ FACT: PACMERS is a chartered program sponsored by US Pacific Command (PACOM) to facilitate the service components in the PACOM area in meeting the NTIA narrowband mandate and share system infrastructure (a NTIA mandate for trunk radio systems), of which only DoD service agencies voluntarily participate. PACMERS in Hawaii, under the direction of US Army Pacific (Executive Agent) seeks primarily to extend interoperability to state and local agencies through a yet to be developed Digital Network Management System (DNMS). ALMR is a federal, state, and local government cooperative, with senior executive level direction through an Executive Council made up of senior federal, state and local government representatives to implement and operate a cost shared single statewide interoperable land mobile radio system. This system is designed to support day-to-day agency autonomous operations and provide a full featured, on demand and in real time interoperability for federal, state and local government first responders engaged in day-to-day, mutual aid and task force missions. The ALMR system uses the Project 25 (P25)/Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) 102A standard to achieve interoperability among participating federal, state and local agencies.
- Pacific Mobile Emergency Radio System concept saves \$94 million dollars over 8 years.
- ✓ FACT: ALMR cannot attest to the purported savings presented in the presentation by Mr. Cape. An accounting of true costs or savings has not been performed and validated to our knowledge; therefore the figures provided in the presentation by Mr. Cape should be viewed as Mr. Cape's opinion and unverified.
- Pacific Mobile Emergency Radio System – A new way of doing business.

- ✓ FACT: PACMERS is simply a contract vehicle, among many contract vehicles, available to meet federal agency needs. The contract vehicle is not accessible by state and local agencies and has proven to complicate federal, state and local government cooperative efforts to implement a single shared trunk radio infrastructure.
- DoD implementation of the Digital Network Management System will provide immediate interoperability to surrounding state and local entities and first responders.
- ✓ FACT: The ALMR system uses the P25/TIA 102A standard to achieve interoperability among participating federal, state and local agencies. Conventional interfaces to maritime and air/ground systems are planned into the network as well as use of a deployable/transportable trunk radio system. ALMR has considered the use of the Digital Network Management System (currently in concept scope only) and other similar technology ideas to facilitate interoperability among federal, state and local government first responders using non-P25 LMR assets or other wireless technologies. We chose to implement the Wireless Information Transfer System (WITS) technology which will provide wireless connectivity with and between a diversity of wireless networks and security levels, and is in production and available today. In addition, DoD Alaska components will use the DoD Joint Tactical Radio System technology (currently under development) to facilitate connectivity to diverse DoD systems where required.
- All bases, posts, camps and stations would use leased trunk land mobile radio systems.
- ✓ FACT: DoD Alaska component services will not all use leased trunk land mobile radio systems. The Army in Alaska has elected to use a leased approach; the Air Force has elected to procure their LMR assets. Each service must complete a lease purchase analysis and determine which best meets their mission and fiscal needs. ALMR does not mandate any particular procurement solution or procurement contract, but rather centers the requirements around the use of shared infrastructure, and a standard based approach using P25/TIA-102A standards. All agencies implementing this standard will achieve the interoperability goals set by the ALMR Executive Council, regardless of whether they lease turn key, lease to buy, or purchase the LMR assets. ALMR is a team approach where federal, state and local government participating agencies coordinate from a program level their implementation of infrastructure, site development and operations and maintenance to achieve a cost shared, full-featured single statewide trunk radio system. This approach will meet participating agency mission needs for day-to-day operations and provide the highest level of interoperability and security for public safety first responders involved in day-to-day, mutual aid and task force inter-agency interoperability.

2. We have attached more information concerning the ALMR program to assist you in understanding our approach. We hope this has clarified our approach to interoperable LMR in Alaska. We thank you in advance for promulgating this information to your members and attendees to insure their clear understanding of Alaska land mobile radio initiatives.

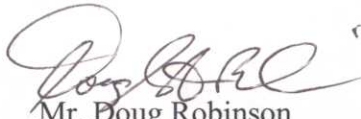
3. Should you have any questions or require more clarification, please contact Ms. Julie Stinson, ALMR Project Manager, State of Alaska, 907-748-1985 or Mr. Tim Woodall, Deputy Project Manager, DoD, HQ Alaskan Command, 907-552-8223.



Sue Ann Olsavicky, Colonel USAF
HQ Alaskan Command/J6
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ALMR Executive Council Co-Chair



Mr. Del Smith
Commissioner Public Safety,
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ALMR Executive Council Co-Chair



Mr. Doug Robinson
Communications Director
Municipality of Anchorage
Alaska Municipal League
ALMR Executive Council Co-Chair



Mr. Mike Lewis
Telecommunications Manager
U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Federal Agencies Non - DOD
ALMR Executive Council Co-Chair

- 2 Attachments
1. NWCIP Briefing
2. ALMR Overview

CC: Department of Commerce CIO
Federal Times Editor